

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2724
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2007
POTATO CROP DAMAGED DUE TO FOG
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the potato crop has been damaged due to fog in certain parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the assistance provided/proposed to be provided for the purpose to the affected farmers, State- wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a): No, Sir. Fog as such does not damage potato crop. However, it increases the severity of late blight disease caused by *Phytophthora Infestans* in potato particularly if disease has appeared early in the crop season.

(b): The unusual rain during first part of November, 2006 in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Western U.P. lead to foggy days. The continuous rains and fogs during 1st February to 12th February, 2007 in Bihar and West Bengal facilitated the flare up of late blight disease. The fog generated by the rain aggravated the attack of late blight disease in potato in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Western U.P., Bihar and West Bengal. The yield losses in potato crop is estimated about 20 to 30% in above states.

(c): No such proposal for seeking assistance for potato crop damage due to fog has been received from any of the State. However, Government has taken steps to sent an advisory to potato growers in the country as early as 29.11.2006 and again on 29.12.2006. The measures advised were as follows:

- (i) Spraying mancozeb (0.2%) where disease has not appeared.
- (ii) In fields where disease has just appeared, spray the crop with curzate (0.3%, 3 kg/ha in 1000 lts. Water).
- (iii) Apply metalaxyl based fungicide (0.25%) in fields where disease severity is more than 5%.
- (iv) Farmers are being given quality seeds and necessary guidelines for the next crop season.